

July 15, 2005

Dear Friend,

On Wednesday, July 13th, the Small Business Committee held a hearing on my bill, H.R. 2981, which establishes a pilot project that allows Small Business Development Centers to further assist the Native Americans, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians with their small business development needs. For 25 years, Small Business Development Centers have been delivering management and technical assistance counseling to millions of prospective and existing small business owners. My bill helps these centers extend these resources to areas that will benefit greatly from their assistance, by allowing them to apply for grants to establish centers on or near Native American lands. The business development tools offered by these SBDCs can assist Native Americans with the training, mentoring, and technical assistance to build sustainable businesses in their communities.

As a member of the Small Business Committee, I am uniquely aware of how important small business entrepreneurship is to the health of our economy. There are 25 million small businesses in the US, creating 75 percent of all new jobs and providing economic growth and development to their communities. While the current economic situation for our entire nation is grave, it is even worse so on Native American lands. There is, however, great promise for the future. I believe that my bill will help our Native American population with the opportunity to build sustainable businesses in their communities, which will in turn create further economic opportunities for those who need them the most.

Now that my bill has been approved by the full Small Business Committee, it is my hope that it will be quickly passed by the full House. For more information on this important piece of legislation, please [click here](#).

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope you have found the information useful. Please watch your inbox for future updates.

Very truly yours,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress